

## Scientific Communication Writing Assignment Rubric – Peer Evaluation

**your name:** Nora Williamson

**assignment reviewed:** Caelin Foley (34)

Using the rubric below, please evaluate each of your assigned news articles in each of the areas shown, filling out a separate evaluation form for each news article. Please highlight the part of the rubric text that explains why you chose a specific assessment category. In the “General Feedback” section at the bottom of this form, please include more specific feedback, including things that you liked as well as things that you feel could be improved upon and suggestions on how to improve them.

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
<b>Content:</b> <b>Does the news article convey the writer’s understanding of a biological topic?</b>	The news article introduces a biological topic and clearly illustrates the writer’s understanding of the topic including what is known and not known about it and how understanding the biology associated with the topic helps us understand larger issues or concepts.	The news article introduces a biological topic and presents information about it, but the topic is not explained clearly or doesn’t distinguish between what is known vs. what is not known or doesn’t explain how understanding the biology associated with the topic helps us understand larger issues or concepts.	The news article does not illustrate the writers understanding of the topic and does not indicate what is known vs. what is not known or how understanding the biology associated with the topic helps us understand larger issues or concepts.
<b>Audience:</b> <b>Is the writing appropriate for the target audience?</b>	The news article avoids jargon and clearly defines terms and ideas for a non-expert audience.	The news article defines or explains some terms, but some key terms or ideas would be challenging for a non-expert audience.	The news article lacks definitions and explanations, making the topic inaccessible to a non-expert audience.
<b>Organization:</b> <b>Is the news article clearly organized?</b>	The news article is well organized and easy to follow with good transitions between the paragraphs.	The news article is generally organized and easy to follow but conceptual connections aren’t always clear.	The news article is disorganized, and the information presented doesn’t flow well.

Rubric continues on next page

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
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<b>Format, spelling &amp; grammar:</b> <b>Does the news article follow the recommended format and is it free of writing errors?</b>	The news article follows guidelines for paper length and format and has been carefully proofread for spelling and grammatical mistakes.	The news article is outside the recommended length or does not conform to the formatting guidelines; the news article contains a small number of spelling and/or grammatical errors.	The news article is significantly outside the recommended length and does not conform to the formatting guidelines; the news article contains numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors.
<b>Citations:</b> <b>Are the citations presented appropriately?</b>	The news article contains appropriate in-text citations and a list of references for all source material.	The news article is missing either appropriate in-text citations or a list of references.	The news article is missing appropriate in-text citations and a list of references OR citations are missing for one or more sources.
<b>Rationale for choosing topic:</b> <b>Did the writer indicate why they chose the topic?</b>	The rationale for choosing the topic is clearly explained.		No rationale for the topic's choice is provided.

#### **General feedback (5 points):**

This paper has a good flow and is clear and straightforward in describing possible causes and common symptoms of Ehlers Danlos Syndrome. The organization is excellent for the most part, but it is somewhat unclear whether PLOD1 and FKBP14 are genes or mutations on genes. They are referred to as both, so keeping what they are referred to consistent would aid in understanding the causes of the condition.

There was no heading or title, which is unusual for a scientific article. Additionally, typically in scientific writing the sources on the sources page are formatted with hanging indents. The sentence “it is linked to the PLOD1 gene and is inherited via autosomal recessive” does not seem complete. Maybe in this sentence you could say that the gene itself is autosomal recessive, or that the disorder is inherited via autosomal recessive transmission to be clearer.

In terms of citations, they are well done at the end, but the paper lacks in-text citations. Wherever “a recent clinical study” or “this study” appears, you could include parenthetical or in-text citations to the articles used.

This paper was clearly a personal topic and is meaningful to the author and others who have this condition or who have loved ones affected by it. The rationale for writing this summary/article clearly conveys the author's intentions in writing it.

**Overall assessment (excellent, good, needs improvement): Good/Excellent**

I would say this paper is in between good and excellent as it is. With some small formatting and grammar edits it will be a great paper.